

**Judicial Council of Georgia
Emergency Session**

By Conference Call

**Monday, May 18, 2020
2:00 p.m.**

- 1. Preliminary Remarks**
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
- 2. Roll Call of Judicial Council Members**
(Cynthia Clanton, Judicial Council Secretary and AOC Director, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 3. Adoption of Minutes from Emergency Session on May 11, 2020**
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 4. COVID-19 Update and Discussion of Statewide Judicial Emergency Orders by Judicial Council Members**
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 15 Min.)
- 5. Reports from Courts, Councils, State Bar, and AOC (Est. Time – 20 min.)**
 - A. Supreme Court**
 - B. Court of Appeals**
 - C. Business Court**
 - D. Council of Superior Court Judges**
 - E. Council of State Court Judges**
 - F. Council of Juvenile Court Judges**
 - G. Council of Probate Court Judges**
 - H. Council of Magistrate Court Judges**
 - I. Council of Municipal Court Judges**
 - J. State Bar of Georgia**
 - K. Administrative Office of the Courts**

6. Reports from additional Judicial Branch Agencies (Est. Time – 10 Min.)

- A. Council of Accountability Court Judges**
- B. Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution**
- C. Council of Superior Court Clerks**
- D. Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism**
- E. Georgia Council of Court Administrators**
- F. Institute of Continuing Judicial Education**
- G. Judicial Qualifications Commission**

7. Old/New Business

(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

Next Judicial Council Meetings – General Session

Friday, August 14, 2020	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Columbus Convention & Trade Center/Columbus, GA
Friday, December 11, 2020	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	The Carter Center/Atlanta, GA

Judicial Council Meeting Calendar – 2021

Friday, February 12, 2021	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	The James H. “Sloppy” Floyd Building/ Atlanta, GA
Friday, April 23, 2021	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	The Classic Center/Athens, GA
Friday, August 13, 2021	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Location TBD
Friday, December 10, 2021	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	The Carter Center/Atlanta, GA

Please continue to check www.georgiacourts.gov (the Judicial Gateway) for the latest updates and information. Thank you and continue to be safe!

Judicial Council of Georgia
Emergency Session
Conference Call
May 11, 2020 • 2 p.m.

Members Present

Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Chair
Presiding Justice David Nahmias
Chief Judge Brian Amero
Chief Judge Berryl Anderson
Chief Judge Jeffrey Bagley
Judge Michael Barker
Judge Jim Blanchard (for Chief Judge Carl C. Brown)
Chief Judge Chris Brasher
Chief Judge Geronda Carter
Judge Kerri Carter (for Chief Judge Kelli Wolk)
Judge Walter Davis
Chief Judge T.J. Hudson
Judge Asha Jackson
Judge Lisa C. Jones
Judge Jeffrey H. Kight
Chief Judge T. Russell McClelland
Chief Judge Christopher J. McFadden
Judge Wade Padgett
Vice Chief Judge Brian Rickman
Judge Dale “Bubba” Samuels
Chief Judge Juliette Scales
Judge W. James Sizemore
Mr. Darrell Sutton
Judge Wesley B. Tailor
Judge James G. Tunison, Jr.
Judge Ralph Van Pelt
Judge Willie C. Weaver

Members Absent

Chief Judge Donald W. Gillis

Staff Present

Ms. Cynthia Clanton, Director
Ms. Michele Barclay
Ms. Jessica Farah
Mr. Christopher Hansard
Ms. Stephanie Hines
Ms. Cheryl Karounos
Ms. Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez
Ms. Tynesha Manuel
Ms. Tracy Mason
Ms. Lashawn Murphy
Ms. Tiffanie Robinson
Ms. Maleia Wilson

Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting of the Judicial Council of Georgia (Council) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chief Justice Harold Melton. The Chief Justice administered the oath to Judge W. James Sizemore as the newest Council member. Ms. Clanton called roll for Council members; staff and guests were instructed to submit their attendance to Ms. Robinson for the purposes of the minutes.

Adoption of Minutes – May 4, 2020

Chief Justice Melton directed the Council’s attention to the minutes of the Emergency Session on May 4, 2020. A motion to approve the minutes was offered by Presiding Justice Nahmias, with a second from Judge Weaver. No discussion was offered, and the motion was approved without opposition.

COVID-19 Update and Discussion of Statewide Judicial Emergency Order by Judicial Council Members

Chief Justice Melton reported on the three town hall meetings, noting there were 63 judges in attendance at the Council of Municipal Court Judges town hall; 92 judges in attendance at the Council of State Court Judges town hall; and 68 Superior Court clerks at the Council of Superior Court Clerks town hall. Chief Justice Melton recognized Judge McClelland, Judge Samuels, Mr. Mike Holiman, Judge Barker, and Ms. Karounos for their efforts planning the town hall meetings.

Chief Justice Melton directed attendees to the draft Second Order Extending the Statewide Judicial Emergency, noting it has been circulated for comment. Chief Justice Melton discussed proposed changes to be incorporated into the final order. To address concerns from Council members concerning barriers to entry and detailed plans to reopen courts for extensive in-person proceedings, Chief Justice Melton reported Judge Shawn LaGrúa is working on a bench card to provide guidance to address courthouse access. The task force announced at the last Council meeting will be chaired by Judge LaGrúa; Council members were directed to forward designees to Director Clanton. The Council discussed challenges that may exist at the expiration of the Statewide Judicial Emergency, including speedy trial deadlines and clarification on grand juries.

The Georgia House and Senate Appropriations Committees held a joint hearing last week, with presentations from Dr. Jeffrey Dorfman, State Economist, and Mr. Kelly Farr, OPB Director. Both reiterated the budget outlook information provided by Chairman Welch at the May 4 Council meeting.

The proposed Draft Uniform Superior Court Rule 9.1 Telephone or Video Conferencing revisions were circulated for comment; 188 comments were received and are being reviewed for consideration.

Reports from Courts, Councils, State Bar & AOC

Court of Appeals. No report was provided.

Business Court. No report was provided.

Council of Superior Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of State Court Judges. Judge McClelland expressed gratitude for the opportunity to meet with Chief Justice Melton and Presiding Justice Nahmias during the town hall meeting. The Council of State Court Judges is conducting its annual meetings this week online, to include the election of officers.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Probate Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Magistrate Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Municipal Court Judges. Judge Samuels expressed gratitude for the participation of Presiding Justice Nahmias and Chief Justice Melton in the town hall meeting. He also reported municipal courts are exploring ways to expand services.

State Bar of Georgia. No report was provided.

Administrative Office of the Courts. Director Clanton reported the AOC continues to remain fully functional with senior staff rotating in the office.

Reports from additional Judicial Branch Agencies

Council of Accountability Court Judges. No report was provided.

Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution. No report was provided.

Council of Superior Court Clerks. Mr. Holiman expressed gratitude for the town hall meeting, reporting it was well-received by Superior Court Clerks.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. Ms. Karlise Grier reported the Commission is planning the next virtual CLE focused on criminal justice, based on feedback received from the last CLE. The program co-chaired by Ms. Rebecca Grist and Ms. Claudia Saari is scheduled for Noon, June 11, 2020.

Georgia Council of Court Administrators. No report was provided.

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education. No report was provided.

Judicial Qualifications Commission. No report was provided.

Old Business

No old business was offered.

New Business

No new business was offered.

Concluding Remarks

Chief Justice Melton announced that the next Emergency Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2020.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chief Justice Melton adjourned the meeting at 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Tynesha Manuel
Assistant Director, Judicial Council/AOC
For Cynthia H. Clanton, Director and Secretary

The above and foregoing minutes
were approved on the ____ day of
_____, 2020.

Harold D. Melton
Chief Justice

Judicial Council of Georgia
Emergency Session
Conference Call
May 11, 2020 • 2 p.m.

Guest Present

Mr. Douglas Ashworth, Institute of Continuing Judicial Education
Mr. Joseph Baden, Third Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Therese Barnes, Supreme Court of Georgia
Ms. Amy Bell, Office of the Circuit Public Defender, Macon Judicial Circuit
Mr. Tracy J. BeMent, Tenth Judicial Administrative District
Judge Violet R. Bennett, State Court of Wayne County
Mr. Chuck Boring, Judicial Qualifications Commission
Mr. Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges
Ms. Benita Brown, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Mr. Steve Castlen, Georgia Court of Appeals
Ms. Mazie Lynn Causey, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Judge Robert Cowan, Municipal Court of Dalton
Mr. Richard F. Denney, First Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Kimberly DyMecki, Attorney
Mr. Steve Ferrell, Ninth Judicial Administrative District
Chief Judge Reuben Green, Superior Court, Cobb Judicial Circuit
Ms. Karlise Grier, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism
Mr. Steven Hatfield, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Ms. Christine Hayes, State Bar of Georgia
Mr. Kevin Holder, Council of Probate Court Judges
Mr. Michael Holiman, Council of Superior Court Clerks
Judge Gary Jackson, Municipal Court of Atlanta
Ms. Tracy Johnson, Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution
Ms. Taylor Jones, Council of Accountability Courts Judges
Ms. Anne Kirkhope, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Ms. Cathy McCumber, Fourth Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Tia Milton, Supreme Court of Georgia
Mr. David Mixon, Second Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Sharon Reiss, Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Ms. Jimmonique Rodgers, Georgia Public Defender Council
Ms. Maryellen Simmons, Georgia Public Defender Council
Ms. Christina Cooley Smith, Court of Appeals
Mr. Robert W. Smith, Jr., Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia
Mr. Jason Stephenson, Northeastern Judicial Circuit
Ms. Jessica Towne, Clark & Towne, P.C.
Ms. Courtney Veal, Judicial Qualifications Commission
Ms. Kristen Wallace, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Ms. Cindy Wang, Department of Juvenile Justice
Mr. Shannon Weathers, Council of Superior Court Judges
Mr. Lawrence Zimmerman, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Harold D. Melton
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Judicial COVID-19 Task Force

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Judicial Council, ad hoc committees exist to address issues of limited scope and duration, and the Judicial Council Chair shall create and charge ad hoc committees as are necessary to conduct the business of the Judicial Council.

Therefore, I hereby establish the Judicial COVID-19 Task Force, as an ad hoc committee of the Judicial Council, with the mission of assisting courts in conducting remote proceedings and in restoring more in-court proceedings, in particular jury trials and grand jury proceedings. The Task Force will include judges from the various classes of court and will obtain input from key stakeholders including the State Bar of Georgia, prosecutors and public defenders, civil plaintiff and defense attorneys, court clerks, sheriffs, and the public.

The following members are hereby appointed to the Judicial COVID-19 Task Force:

- Judge Shawn LaGrua, Fulton County Superior Court, Chair
- Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, chosen by the Chief Justice
- Court of Appeals Judge, chosen by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals
- Georgia State-wide Business Court Judge
- Judge of an Accountability Court, chosen by the President of the Council of Accountability Courts
- State Court Judge, chosen by the President of the Council of State Court Judges
- Juvenile Court Judge, chosen by the President of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- Probate Court Judge, chosen by the President of the Council of Probate Court Judges
- Magistrate Court Judge, chosen by the President of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges
- Municipal Court Judge, chosen by the President of the Council of Municipal Court Judges
- Member of the State Bar of Georgia, chosen by the President of the State Bar
- Superior Court Clerk, chosen by the President of the Council of Superior Court Clerks

In addition, designees from the following organizations are hereby appointed as advisory members to the Judicial COVID-19 Task Force:

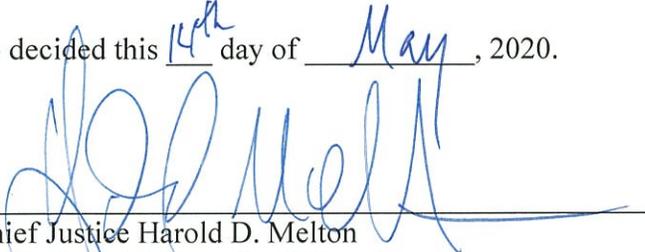
- Administrative Office of the Courts
- Georgia Department of Law
- Institute of Continuing Judicial Education
- Judicial Qualifications Commission
- Georgia Legal Services Program or Atlanta Legal Aid Society

- Georgia Council of Court Administrators
- Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia
- Georgia Public Defender Council
- Georgia Trial Lawyers Association
- Georgia Defense Lawyers Association
- Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Association County Commissioners of Georgia
- Georgia Chamber of Commerce - Law and Judiciary Committee
- Georgia Department of Public Health
- Georgia Department of Community Health
- Department of Community Supervision
- Georgia Sheriffs' Association

Committee membership may include additional advisory members appointed, as needed, by the Task Force Chair. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff support to this Task Force. Recommendations from the Task Force shall be presented to the Judicial Council and Supreme Court of Georgia for consideration. The Task Force shall exist from the date of this order until June 30, 2021.

So decided this 14th day of May, 2020.



Chief Justice Harold D. Melton
Chair, Judicial Council of Georgia



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

May 14, 2020

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.
The following order was passed:

It is hereby ordered that the Judge of the Georgia State-wide Business Court be added as a member to all Standing Committees of the Judicial Council of Georgia, as follows:

- Standing Committee on Access to Justice
- Standing Committee on Court Reporting Matters
- Standing Committee on Budget
- Standing Committee on Education and Training
- Standing Committee on Grants
- Standing Committee on Judicial Workload Assessment
- Standing Committee on Legislation
- Standing Committee on Technology
- Strategic Plan Standing Committee

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
Clerk's Office, Atlanta

I certify that the above is a true extract from the minutes of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Witness my signature and the seal of said court hereto affixed the day and year last above written.

 , Clerk